

# Making the World Feel at Home: Generous Hospitality

PRESENTED BY RICK BALE – 2019



International  
FRIENDSHIPS

**Building the Global  
Kingdom Together!**



# INTRODUCTIONS

Me:

Rick Bale – Wife, and 3 children.

With IFI hosting guests since ~2008

Have participated in holiday hosting, airport pickup, temporary housing, conversational partner, and church provided food for Bible study.

You:

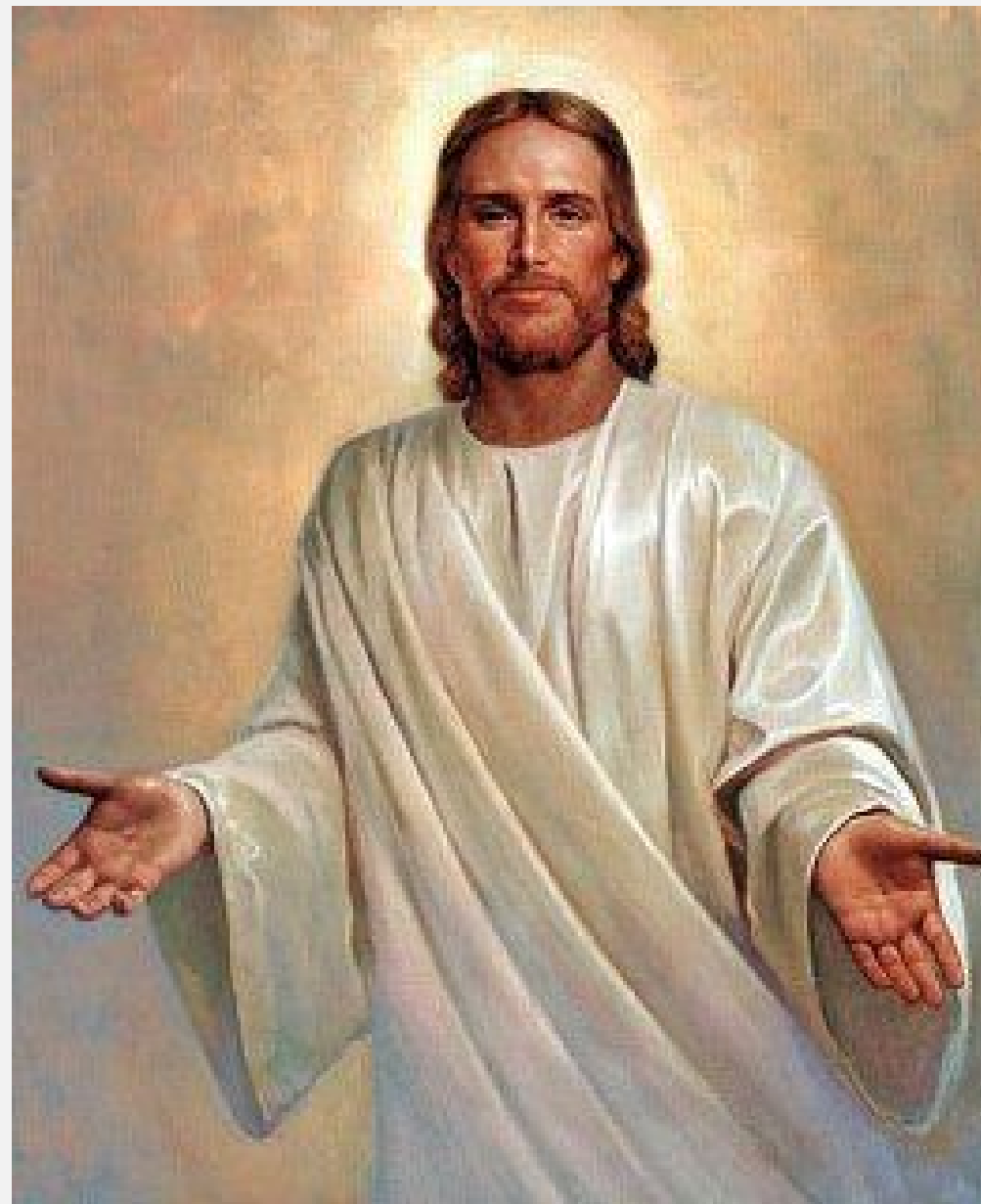
Name

Background with IFI

What do you hope to get out of this training?

Fears / concerns with participating more deeply

# THE HEART OF HOSPITALITY



Jesus said “Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest.” Mt.11:28

# OTHER VERSES

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matt. 25:40 (NIV)



Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Heb 13:2 (ESV)



# DETAILS COMMON TO ALL SETTINGS

- Near Term Focus: consideration for Fall student airport pickup and temporary housing
- Applicable across the board for hospitality with international students

# PRE-PICK UP CONTACT

- Introduce yourself to student
- Schedule for the day, or generally while being in your house, if for longer period
- Pickup arrangements
- Transportation available
- Dietary restrictions?
- When will student be returning?
- You are looking forward to meeting them in person!
- Ask if they have questions



# PUT THE STUDENT AT EASE

- Learn student's name in advance
- Tour of your home
- Help in the kitchen or allow them to cook!
- Music is a great bridge!



- Map of their country (family – place of origin, etc.) families, individuals, friends, or folks from different countries.



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Name tags – (particularly appropriate if an event multiples)
- Pictures help!
- Children (Yours)
- Siblings (Theirs)
- If 1 or more nights: Remember safety
  - What to do if fire alarm goes off?
  - Any areas to stay away from on your property or in the neighborhood?





# CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- Shoes
- Eating habits
- Some may be more direct than others (e.g. perception of Americans and weight)
- DON'T BE OFFENDED!
- Bartering vs. paying prices



- Gifts from the student (Don't be afraid to hang them up right away!)
- Age is valued. Enjoyed getting to know my 93 yr. old mother.



# THE MEAL

- Give thanks (Pray) – Inform them in advance why and how we pray.
- Serve your traditional foods – (holiday meals drive additional considerations, such as education on traditions, and participation in pictures, etc.)
- Allow them to participate in cooking!
- Meal mechanics – passing food – no need to take some of everything, etc.
- Portions
- Stretch yourself – (Consider Chopsticks, if relevant)
- We've served plenty of traditional American food, including chili, eggs, breads, turkey & dressing, potatoes in different forms, different varieties of soups (watch the pork for Muslims)
- Internationals may want to reciprocate, with some traditional meals for them, in your home, or theirs!



# DINNER IS SERVED...



- This is Afnan from Saudi Arabia. She appreciated our daughter and wanted to fix a traditional meal.
- The decorations she used for our meal were interesting to say the least!
- The coffee she fixed us was... well... special! And there were cultural implications on the manners...



- This is Seng, from South Asia.
- She also wanted to help with a meal, and fixed us Mohinga.



# CONVERSATION SUGGESTIONS

- What do students talk about during meals in their home?
- What do they like to do with their free time?
- What do their parents do?
- Family traditions for them?
- What is student studying? Why?
- Any religious background?
- Generally, 'Trade' cultural understandings.
- Origin of holidays--Thanksgiving/Christmas
- See "Conversation Starters" (Handout), for additional ideas!

# DO'S AND DON'TS IN CONVERSATION

- Avoid politics
- Avoid saying anything negative about their country.
- Speak clearly, not loudly. intentionally, unless it is clear that all guests are solid with their conversational English
- Remember they may take longer to respond. Give them time.
- Be normal with prayer, and be willing to answer questions, if asked.
- Ok to invite to church. Interesting conversations \*MAY\* take place, if the Holy Spirit is driving (example).
- Do not discuss Christian persecution In their country.
- Be very generous. It speaks volumes, and they “Feel It”!



# SHARE YOUR PICTURES

Got Facebook?









# FOLLOW –UP QUESTIONS

- Look for ways to maintain contact.
- Follow-up immediately.
- Tell your friends about your experience.
- Continue to pray for the student.
- Remember: They have a stronger connection with you than you may think, since you may be their first American experience.

Jai Min (Right) spent a few days with us after we picked her up at the airport. We enjoyed her, and followed up a bit for the 1st year, but not a great deal. Three years later, after not seeing her in that time, she contacted us and asked if she could bring her parents by to meet us, as she was graduating.




# SOME COMMON FEARS

- **Concern:** “I have small children.”
- **Response:** It’s not only an opportunity to educate the international students on family life, but you have no idea the benefits to your own children. (Discuss)
  
- **Concern:** “I have no experience.”
- **Response:** Neither did Gideon!
  
- **Concern:** “I don’t know what they might like to eat.”
- **Response:** They want to experience America! ...and Your cooking!
  
- **Concern:** “I’m a little intimidated to try this on my own.”
- **Response:** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13
  
- **Concern:** “Will they take anything?”
- **Response:** We’ve never feared it, nor seen it.



# SOME COMMON FEARS (CONT.)

- **Concern:** “What will we talk about?”
- **Response:** See list of suggested conversational starters. Assign someone else in your family to review the list and be ready to go!
- **Concern:** “What will we do (i.e., Activities)?”
- **Response:** See list of activity suggestions (Handout)
- **Concern:** “How will I find them at the airport?”
- **Response:** Be prepared with a sign. Know the flight number. Tell them where you’ll be.
- **Concern:** “What about the age gap?”
- **Response:** Other cultures have great respect for age, and they love seeing family life, with children.
- **Remember:** They are thrilled that you are willing to spend some time with them!



*“Lord, when did we see you hungry... or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you...?”<sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them... “...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”*

*Mt. 25:39-40 (NIV)*

- Opportunities to share the gospel, when God provides:
  - Christmas morning: Question asked
  - Others have asked questions of curiosity, but none so direct
- Lasting Relationships:
  - First family – Close friendship.

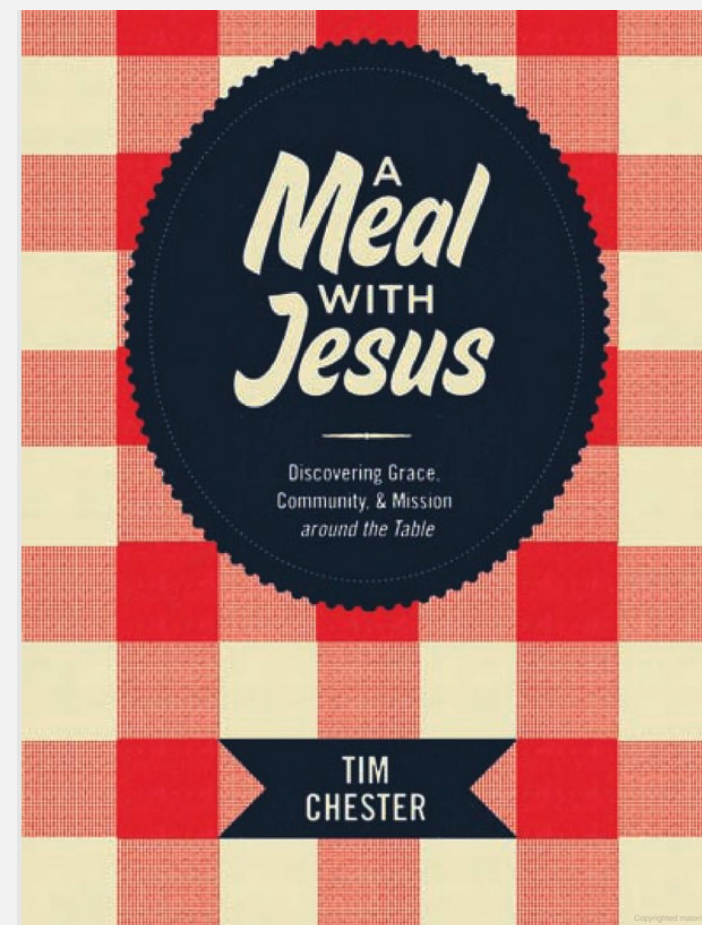


30+ years ago we invited our first international Chinese student to our home for Christmas. It was not through IFI, but a similar program. One 3 yr. old daughter, (now a Dr). Wife and daughter had been in the country 2 days. No English. We invited them to church before a Christmas celebration. Later, we helped them find a car, and periodically followed up with them. We've lost a daughter and they've had one born with Cerebral Palsy since (pictured). You never know what the Lord will do with a small bit of faithfulness. What followed?...





# RESOURCES



- Review Handouts
- Online training Platform has videos, [Ifipartners.org/online-training](https://ifipartners.org/online-training)
- Read Luke and Matthew looking specifically when Jesus went for a meal?, who he invited him? And what he talked about?

# QUESTIONS?

